

OBITUARY

COL. JAMES MAY ELLIOTT, R.A.M.C.

Colonel J. M. Elliott, who was for many years consultant venereologist to the Essex County Council, died in London on January 6, 1954, at the age of 67. James May Elliott was born on March 16, 1886, and came of a medical family. His father, Dr. James May Elliott, of Rathfriland, Co. Down, had four sons, three of whom became doctors and the other a dentist. James, the third son, graduated M.B., Ch. B. at Trinity College, Dublin, in 1910 and among other distinctions gained the Gold Medal for Anatomy. After qualifying, he entered an uncle's practice in Northern Ireland as assistant, but at the end of 2 years, having little liking for general practice, joined the R.A.M.C. This he made his career, serving in India, Egypt, and the United Kingdom. In 1937 he retired from the army to take up an appointment as full-time venereologist with the Essex County Council. Venereology had for many years been his chief interest and he was one of the distinguished group who trace their specialist training to Rochester Row.

Colonel Elliott immediately set about organizing V.D. clinics in the various Essex county towns—and a formidable task it was as many of the senior doctors, especially in Chelmsford, flatly rejected the remotest possibility of there being any venereal disease in the district. To do efficient work in a dark, screened-off section of an x-ray room was almost an impossibility, but persistence proved the necessity for clinics. Such was Colonel Elliott's energy and enthusiasm that in Colchester and Romford new clinics were built conforming to the latest approved design. These "temporary" structures still stand and flourish 25 years later. They may be cold and draughty but their lay-out is a lasting credit to their planner.

Not less in importance was the establishment of a central office at County Hall, Chelmsford. From

here Colonel Elliott integrated the V.D. services for the whole area—a county in which movement of contacts and patients has always been limited practically to the county boundaries. Health visitors were at his elbow and the control exercised was an early model of what we aim at today.

At the outbreak of the last war he was recalled to the army and was appointed adviser in dermatology to the British Expeditionary Force in France in 1939–40. After Dunkirk he continued to serve in England until being posted to the Gold Coast, where he became ill and was invalided home. In the light of subsequent happenings, it is obvious that his illness was lethargic encephalitis, and, although he made what was apparently a perfect recovery, was much more serious than anyone imagined. When he ceased to belong to the Regular Army Reserve of Officers in October, 1945, on reaching the age limit, he was granted the rank of colonel. After the war he returned to his position with the Essex County Council, holding the appointment until 1952, when he retired. In the following two years his health declined very rapidly, and it became apparent that he had never fully recovered from the severe illness contracted on the Gold Coast. His charm of manner and infinite courtesy and kindness to patients and colleagues gave him a large circle of friends, to whom his recent loss of health, so soon after his retirement, was a great grief.

Colonel Elliott married Mary Tullock, daughter of James Tullock, Esq., of Sutton, in 1919 and had one son, an officer in the regular army stationed at Trieste, and a daughter, who is almoner at the Gordon Hospital, London. To his widow, son, and daughter his many professional friends in general and his venereologist colleagues and fellow members of M.S.S.V.D. in particular extend their sincere sympathy.

R. H. B.

CHARLES HAMILTON WILKIE, M.D.

Although it was known that he had suffered ill health for some time, the death of Charles Hamilton Wilkie in December, 1953, at the age of 52, came as a great shock to his colleagues in venereology.

After qualifying M.B., Ch.B., at Glasgow in 1928, he proceeded to B.Sc. in 1931 and M.D. in 1941. As a background to his clinical appointments,

he was particularly enthusiastic about laboratory work, a combination he considered most important in venereology. From 1932 he was Director of Venereal Diseases at Leicester, where his efficiency and enthusiasm are perpetuated in one of the best designed departments in the country.

Hamilton Wilkie was not a prolific writer, though several articles based on his wide experience stand